

APR 1950

TOP SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL

1. US to defer protest on East German militarization--The Department of State has advised US Embassy London of its decision to defer the projected protest to the USSR over the militarization of the East German police, in view of the opposition of British Foreign Secretary Bevin and the reluctance of French Foreign Minister Schuman to make the protest at this time. The Department believes that the question should be examined at the forthcoming meeting of the Western Foreign Ministers, and expresses the opinion that a tripartite statement after this meeting would be more effective than a unilateral US protest now. (Both Bevin and Schuman have expressed the feeling that the proposed protest should be discussed at the meeting of the three Foreign Ministers.)

EUROPE

2. USSR: Protest on Western position in Trieste--US Ambassador Kirk in Moscow has been handed a note on Trieste by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gromyko which denounces "alleged" US-UK violations of the Italian peace treaty and calls for the establishment of a Free Territory according to the terms of the Italian peace treaty. The USSR contends that the violations transform Trieste "into a US-UK military and naval base" and "constitute a threat to the peace and security of Europe." The USSR also insists on the immediate and precise fulfillment of the Italian peace treaty provisions, including: (a) the naming of a governor and the establishment of a temporary governing council; and (b) the withdrawal of the US and UK troops.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

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- 1 -

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(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the USSR has become more aggressive at this time regarding the Trieste issue in the hope of taking advantage of the renewed tension and disagreement arising from conflicting Italian and Yugoslav claims to Trieste territory. In addition to planning to exploit the protest for propaganda purposes, the Kremlin probably estimates that its insistence on an immediate solution in conformity with the terms of the Italian peace treaty will: (a) prejudice prospects for any negotiated settlement between Italy and Yugoslavia by intensifying already inflamed feelings; and (b) seriously complicate the position of the US, the UK, and France in regard to Trieste. The Kremlin may also wish to publicize its basic legal position for possible use in attacking any settlement that may be negotiated in the future.)

Soviet reply to US protest on missing plane--US Ambassador Kirk in Moscow reports that, in a note delivered by Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky in response to the US protest over the missing US Navy airplane, the USSR categorically rejects the US position and specifically denies that the Navy plane was unarmed. The USSR also refuses to consider the US demands for indemnities and for punishment of the Soviet aviators involved in the incident. In regard to the US request that the Soviet Air Force be instructed to avoid similar incidents in the future, the USSR asserts that current orders to the Soviet Air Force "will remain in force." Kirk comments that, during the conversation which followed Vishinsky's presentation of the note, the Soviet Foreign Minister appeared calm and unruffled and neither vindictive nor aggressive.

- 2 -